



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE EMPLOYEES ARRESTED ON DRUG CHARGES

TUCSON, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that Ricardo Romero, Jr. (DOB 9-5-78) was arrested on May 19, 2003 in Tucson and Cesar Ricardo Amaya (DOB 3-16-81) was arrested today in Tucson. Ricardo Romero, Jr. and Cesar Ricardo Amaya were charged with possessing with intent to distribute one hundred fifty-nine (159) pounds of marijuana. Ricardo Romero, Jr., a resident of Rio Rico, Arizona, has been with the United States Forest Service since 1998 and Cesar Ricardo Amaya, a resident of Nogales, Arizona has been with the United States Forest Service since 2002. Both men work as fire fighters for the Nogales Fire Station.

A conviction for the marijuana violation carries a maximum sentence of up to twenty (20) years in prison and a fine of up to \$1,000,000.00.

The investigation that led to the arrest was conducted by a joint investigation between the Southern Arizona Corruption Task Force, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U. S. Forest Service, and the Department of Agriculture - Office of the Inspector General. The Southern Arizona

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Corruption Task Force is comprised of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement - Internal Affairs, and the Tucson Police Department.

The prosecution is being handled by James T. Lacey, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

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